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NAVIGATION



Western Bat Species

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Mollosidae, or free-tailed bats, belong to the order Chiroptera. The family's common name is derived from a length of "free" tail, projecting beyond the end of the uropatagium – the membrane that connects the base of the tail to the hind legs. The tail is usually best seen when resting. A special ring of cartilage slides up or down the tail vertebrae by muscular action to stretch or retract the tail membrane. This gives many species a degree of fine tuning in their flight maneuvers to rival their day-flying ecological equivalents, such as swifts, swallows, and martins. As a result, these animals include the fastest-flying of all bat species among their number.

Eumops perotis | greater mastiff bat

Eumops underwoodii | Underwood's mastiff bat

Nyctinomops femorosaccus | pocketed free-tailed bat

Nyctinomops macrotis | big free-tailed bat

Tadarida brasiliensis | Mexican free-tailed bat

Mormoopidae, contains bats known generally as mustached bats, ghost-faced bats, and naked-backed bats. They are found in the Americas from the southwestern United States to southeastern Brazil. They are distinguished by the presence of a leaf-like projection from their lips, instead of the nose-leaf found in many other bat species. In some species, the wing membranes join over the animal's back, making it appear hairless. The tail projects only a short distance beyond the membrane that stretches between the hind legs.

Mormoops megalophylla | ghost-faced bat

Phylostomidae (New World leaf-nosed bats) represents one of the most morphologically diverse families, comprising approximately 160 species of more than 55 genera. These extraordinary bats, whose scientific and common names derive from their 'leaf-shaped' noses, occur throughout Central and South America, from Mexico to northern Argentina.

Choeronycteris mexicana | Mexican long-tongued bat

Leptonycteris curasoae | lesser long-nosed bat

Leptonycteris nivalis | Mexican long-nosed bat

Macrotis californicus | California leaf-nosed bat

Vespertilionidae, the taxonomic family of “evening bats,” “vesper bats,” or “common bats” compose the largest family within the order Chiroptera, containing approximately 407 species of 48 genera. As the second largest mammalian family, vespertilionids occur on every continent except Antarctica. The majority of these species possess a simple face and relatively small eyes, are insectivores and rely primarily on echolocation.

Antrozous pallidus | pallid bat

Corynorhinus townsendii | Townsend's big-eared bat

Eptesicus fuscus | big brown bat

Euderma maculatum | spotted bat

Idionycteris phyllotis | Allen's big-eared bat

Lasionycteris noctivagans | silver-haired bat

Lasiurus blossevillei | western red bat

Lasiurus cinereus | hoary bat

Lasiurus xanthinus | western yellow bat

Lasiurus ega | southern yellow bat

Myotis auriculus | southwestern myotis

Myotis californicus | California myotis

Myotis ciliolabrum | western small-footed myotis

Myotis evotis | long-eared myotis

Distribution

Myotis evotis, a member of the Family Vespertilionidae, ranges across western North America from southwestern Canada (British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan) to Baja California and eastward in the United States to the western Great Plains.



Status

Global Rank – G5. State Ranks: AZ – S3; CA – S3S4; CO – S4; ID – S4; MT – S4; NM – S4; NV – S?; OR – S3; TX – SX; UT – S3S4; WA – S3; WY – S4; AL – S2; BC – S4S5. Former category 2 candidate species. Some federal agencies list the species as being of concern; take usually regulated by state permit.

Identifying Characteristics and Life History

M. evotis has pale brownish to straw- colored pelage. It is distinguished from *M. auriculus* and *M. thysanodes* by having long (19 to 25 mm), glossy black ears and no distinct fringe of hairs along the edge of the uropatagium. *M. evotis* eats moths and small beetles, as well as flies, lacewings, wasps, and true bugs. In areas where *M. evotis* and *M. auriculus* are sympatric, *M. evotis* tends to eat more beetles. This species is a slow flier and is often described as a hovering gleaner that feeds by eating prey off foliage, tree trunks, rocks, and from the ground. It generally leaves its roost for foraging after dark, but individuals have been caught as early as 0.5 h after sunset. *M. evotis* occurs in semiarid shrublands, sage, chaparral, and agricultural areas, but is usually associated with coniferous forests. Individuals roost under exfoliating tree bark, and in hollow trees, caves, mines, cliff crevices, sinkholes, and rocky outcrops on the ground. They also sometimes roost in buildings and under bridges. During the summer, females form small maternity colonies, whereas males and non-reproductive females roost alone or in small groups nearby. Females give birth to one young in late spring to early summer. Individuals have lived up to 22 years. Presumably, most individuals hibernate during the winter.

Threats

May be affected by closure of abandoned mines without surveys, recreational caving, some forest-management practices, and activities (such as highway construction, water impoundments, blasting of cliffs for avalanche control) that impact cliff faces or rock outcrops.

Gaps in Knowledge

Little or no information known on population trends, winter roosting requirements, winter range, importance of snags as summer roosts, and use and acceptance of bat gates. Also more information is needed on foraging requirements.



Selected Literature

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Account by M. A. Bogan, E. W. Valdez, and K.W. Navo

Myotis keenii | Keen's myotis

Myotis lucifugus | little brown myotis

Myotis occultus | Arizona myotis

Myotis septentrionalis | northern myotis

Myotis thysanodes | fringed myotis

Myotis velifer | cave myotis

Myotis volans | long-legged myotis

Myotis yumanensis | Yuma myotis

Parastrellus hesperus | western pipistrelle

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